

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Chinese Government for opening of an direct air link to Calcutta and Mumbai as sister cities;

(b) if so, the steps taken up in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between India and China for air link in 1997 as pending?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal from the Peoples Republic of China.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Memorandum of Understanding of 1997 provides for the capacity and frequency entitlement for the designated airlines of India and China to operate to each other's territory. However actual operation of flights is left to the commercial judgement of airlines.

Improvement of Runways

1735. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) is not devoting attention to task of improving the runways at the airports;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that its haphazard planning has even led to a deterioration in the standard of the runway at Mumbai and Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Improvement of IA's Revenue Management

1736. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new C.M.D. of IA has promised to look in depth cost benefit analysis of various promotional packages to consumers and also to improve Airlines on time performance which has lately dipped to 60 per cent from 80 per cent in the recent past; and